

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in this application. The Office Action rejects claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), and rejects claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

I. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

A. Woo

Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Woo (U.S. Patent No. 6,191,836). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit that Woo does not disclose all of the features of at least independent claim 1. Specifically, Woo at least fails to disclose a liquid crystal composition that comprises *both* a polymerizable liquid crystal compound *and* a hydrolysate of an alkoxysilane compound. See the present claim 1. Instead, Woo merely discloses a conventional alignment layer that merely includes siloxane materials (see, for example, column 5, lines 29-30). Woo nowhere discloses that the composition *also* includes a polymerizable liquid crystal compound. In fact, doing so would be contrary to the disclosure of Woo, because Woo merely discloses an alignment layer (Figure 11h, item 22) which is used to align the *separate* liquid crystal materials (Figure 11h, item 24). In contrast, the presently claimed invention accomplishes alignment of the liquid crystal molecules "without using a special alignment film." Present specification, page 4, lines 11-12. Accordingly, claim 1 is not anticipated by Woo.

For the same reasons, Woo also does not disclose the features of independent claim 10. Specifically, Woo does not disclose a method that includes mixing an alkoxysilane compound *with* a polymerizable liquid crystal compound. See the present claim 10. Accordingly, claim 10 is not anticipated by Woo.

For at least the reasons discussed above, Woo does not anticipate independent claims 1 and 10. Dependent claims 2-9 and 11-16 are therefore also not anticipated to the extent that claims 1 and 10 are not anticipated.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

B. Goto

Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Goto (JP 09157419). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit that Goto does not disclose all of the features of at least independent claim 1. Specifically, Goto also at least fails to disclose a liquid crystal composition that comprises *both* a polymerizable liquid crystal compound *and* a hydrolysate of an alkoxysilane compound. Instead, Goto merely discloses an "inorganic hardening layer" (paragraph [0006]) containing the hydrolyzate of an alkoxy silane (paragraph [0005]). Goto nowhere discloses that this inorganic hardening layer *also* includes a polymerizable liquid crystal compound. In fact, doing so would be contrary to the disclose of Goto, because Goto merely discloses an hardening layer that acts as a gas barrier *over* a liquid crystal display. See paragraph [0002]. Accordingly, Goto does not anticipate claim 1.

For the same reasons, Goto also does not disclose the features of independent claim 10. Specifically, Goto does not disclose a method that includes mixing an alkoxysilane compound *with* a polymerizable liquid crystal compound. See the present claim 10. Accordingly, claim 10 is not anticipated by Goto.

For at least the reasons discussed above, Goto does not anticipate independent claims 1 and 10. Dependent claims 2-9 and 11-16 are therefore also not anticipated to the extent that claims 1 and 10 are not anticipated.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

A. Obayashi

Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as having been anticipated by Obayashi (U.S. Patent No. 7,138,185). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit that Obayashi does not disclose all of the features of at least independent claim 1. Specifically, Obayashi also at least fails to disclose a liquid crystal composition that comprises *both* a polymerizable liquid crystal compound *and* a hydrolysate of an alkoxysilane compound. Instead, Obayashi merely discloses an anti-reflective film that comprises a hydrolysate of an alkoxysilane compound and a binder resin, wherein this binder resin is in no way a polymerizable liquid crystal compound. See Obayashi column 23, line 58 through column 25, line 64.

Namely, the binder resin disclosed by Obayashi is merely any traditional resin having a high refractive index. See Obayashi column 24, lines 4-5. Therefore, the binder resin of Obayashi is not a "polymerizable liquid crystal compound" as that term is known in the art, and as that term is defined on page 10 of the present specification.

Furthermore, that Obayashi does not disclose "a liquid crystal composition" is apparent from its disclosure that the anti-reflective coating disclosed therein must be combined with a separate "optical anisotropy layer" in order to form a polarizing plate. See Obayashi column 10, lines 38-50. In contrast, the presently claimed invention is "a liquid crystal composition" that is itself capable of forming an optically anisotropic film. See the present claim 1. Accordingly, Obayashi does not anticipate claim 1.

For the same reasons, Obayashi also does not disclose the features of independent claim 10. Specifically, Obayashi does not disclose a method that includes mixing an alkoxysilane compound *with* a polymerizable liquid crystal compound. See the present claim 10. Accordingly, claim 10 is not anticipated by Obayashi.

For at least the reasons discussed above, Obayashi does not anticipate independent claims 1 and 10. Dependent claims 2-9 and 11-16 are therefore also not anticipated to the extent that claims 1 and 10 are not anticipated.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

B. Kimura

Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as having been anticipated by Kimura (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0259203). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit that Kimura does not disclose all of the features of at least independent claim 1. Specifically, Kimura at least fails to disclose a liquid crystal composition that comprises a *hydrolysate* of an alkoxysilane compound. Instead, Kimura merely discloses an alkoxysilane compound, not any hydrolysate thereof. See Kimura at paragraph [0155]. As is generally known in the art, a hydrolysate is the reaction product of a hydrolysis reaction. Kimura nowhere discloses that the alkoxysilane compounds of paragraph [0155] have undergone a hydrolysis reaction.

Furthermore, the present specification clearly states that "the hydrolysate of the alkoxysilane compound is used in the present invention because hybrid alignment and homeotropic (vertical) alignment can be achieved *only by the use of the hydrolysate.*" (Emphasis added). Accordingly, Kimura does not anticipate claim 1.

For the same reasons, Kimura also does not disclose the features of independent claim 10. Specifically, Kimura does not disclose a method that includes "the alkoxysilane compound is hydrolyzed to obtain the hydrolysate." See the present claim 10. Accordingly, claim 10 is not anticipated by Kimura.

For at least the reasons discussed above, Kimura does not anticipate independent claims 1 and 10. Dependent claims 2-9 and 11-16 are therefore also not anticipated to the extent that claims 1 and 10 are not anticipated.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: May 5, 2008

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